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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Bike and Bus Safety Critical as City Adds More Bike Lanes**

Bus drivers and bicyclists share same rights and responsibilities on the road

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. (May 2, 2011) – Mayor Greg Ballard in April announced the City's plan to add 32.52 miles of bike lanes throughout Indianapolis in 2011, starting this month. At the end of the 2011 construction season, bike lanes will run from county line to county line, equaling more than 63 miles of coverage. As a result, bike and bus safety is more important than ever.

"As we work to increase connectivity in Indianapolis, IndyGo is helping in our efforts to educate the public on sharing the road," Mayor Ballard said. "The Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council meets monthly to discuss education and outreach opportunities with our many partners including Bicycle Indiana, the Marion County Health Department and the Central Indiana Bicycling Association, and we encourage motorists and cyclists alike to learn more about bicycle safety."

Many of the city's current and forthcoming bike lanes connect with IndyGo bus routes. As lanes become more commonplace, bicyclists and bus drivers must realize they both share the same rights and responsibilities on the road.

"We thoroughly train our drivers on how to safely maneuver their vehicles near cyclists and bike lanes," said Mike Birch director of safety, training and security for IndyGo. "However, it's important for bicyclists to understand that IndyGo must follow certain laws, making it necessary for drivers to enter bike lanes at times. Plus, our buses are at least eight-feet wide and some city streets are narrow, so we sometimes have to share bike lanes with cyclists."

Buses move in and out of traffic but primarily stay in the right lane for passenger loading and unloading. Bicyclists also spend the majority of their time in the right lane. Because bikes and buses share the same space on the road and travel at lower than average speeds when compared to automobiles, it's important for both sets of operators to respect one another, understand each other's method of operation and make safe choices while in traffic.

Bicycle Safety Tips:

- Bicyclists have the right to ride in the street even if there are no marked bike ways.
- Bicyclists should position themselves just to the right of faster moving traffic. When traveling slower than traffic, cyclists should ride as far right as safely possible, except when: preparing to turn left, passing another vehicle, or entering a multi-lane intersection that has dedicated right, left and straight traffic lanes. In such situations, a bicyclist should use the lane that is appropriate for his/her direction of travel.
- Bicyclists should NEVER pass a bus on the right as they can endanger themselves as well as those getting on and off the bus.

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- Bicyclists should merge with traffic to pass a bus on the left, but never split lanes to get ahead of the bus. Also, there should be at least three feet of distance between the bike and bus.
- Bicyclists should ride two feet from the curb and three feet from a bus's door zone.
- Always remember buses make frequent stops. If you think the bus in front of you might stop, play it safe by slowing down and letting the bus pull over in front of you. You can either wait for the bus to make the service stop and then proceed behind the vehicle, or merge with moving traffic and pass the bus on the left.
- Bicyclists should always ride predictably. Any sudden movements or maneuvers will not give the bus driver enough time to react.
- When a bus is behind you, it is for your own safety. You are advised to ride at your own pace and stay in a visible portion of the lane. If the bus passes you, stay alert and see if the bus is going to stop.
- When turning right, the bus driver needs to angle the bus out at least 10 feet before making the actual turn to keep the bus's rear wheels from driving over the curb. To a bicyclist, it may seem like a bus is going through the intersection, so always look for a turn signal.
- One of the most dangerous things a bicyclist can do is turn right across the path of a bus at an intersection.

Bus Driver Method of Operation:

- Bus drivers should not pull into a bike lane unless he/she is making a service stop or preparing to turn. A driver should always assume a bicyclist is to his/her right and properly signal when getting ready to pull over. If a bicyclist is riding parallel to a bus, the bus driver should slow down and let the bicyclist get ahead of the bus before pulling over to a bus stop.
- When passing a bicyclist, a bus driver should maintain a steady speed without accelerating. The driver must allow safe clearance between the bus and the bike—a minimum of three feet. If there is not enough room to pass, the bus driver should slow down, stop and wait for clearance.
- As traffic becomes congested, bus drivers need to remember that bicyclists usually have a clear path to proceed quickly along the right side of the bus.
- Bus drivers should make sure their mirrors are adjusted so they can see a bicyclist traveling on either side of the bus. If there is at least three feet between the bus and the bike, the bicyclist should be visible in the respective mirror.
- It is best for bus drivers to have bicyclists in front as it keeps them visible and in a safe spot.

In addition to the bike and bus information listed above, you can visit IndyGo.net to learn how to utilize the bike racks featured on all IndyGo buses. You can also turn to Bicycle Indiana (bicycleindiana.org), INDYCOG (theindycog.com) and the League of American Bicyclists (bikeleague.org) for more information on bicycling in Indianapolis.

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About IndyGo:

IndyGo, the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation, provides public bus transit services to residents and visitors throughout Marion County. IndyGo is led by President and Chief Executive Officer, Mike Terry, and a seven-member, bipartisan board appointed by the Mayor of Indianapolis and the City-County Council of Indianapolis and Marion County. With 31 fixed routes, which include 30 local service routes and one airport express shuttle, as well as a Flexible Services Department, which includes an ADA-compliant paratransit service, IndyGo provides an average of nine million trips per year. Visit IndyGo.net or call 317.635.3344 for more information. Find IndyGo on Twitter at [IndyGoBus](#) or Facebook by searching pages "IndyGo."

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